

CLAIMS (Corrected)

1. (currently amended) A self-adhering bale strapping band comprising:

at least three co-planar plies formed by a plurality of individual aligned paper strips, at least one of said paper strips being folded longitudinally to define at least two of said plies, said plies paper strips being internally adhesively bonded to each other internally within said band together and wherein said plies are substantially co-extensive in the lateral and longitudinal direction of said band;

said band having a pair of ends;

said band having a first external surface and a second external surface defined by the outermost of said plies;

at least one of said plies being an internal ply disposed between said first external surface and said second external surface;

an external adhesive applied to said first and second external surfaces, said external adhesive adapted to be reactivated such that said ends of said band bond to each other when said ends are overlapped and said external adhesive is reactivated ~~said first external surface bonds to said second external surface.~~

2. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said at least one internal ply comprises multiple plies and wherein all said multiple plies and said first external surface and said second external surface are internally adhesively bonded.

3. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said external adhesive comprises a water-soluble adhesive.

4. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said external adhesive comprises a heat-activated adhesive.

5. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said one or more paper strips comprise repulpable material.

6. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said paper strips comprise a pair of paper strips each longitudinally folded into two plies such that said bale strapping band is a four-ply composite.

7. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said paper strips comprise a pair of paper strips each longitudinally folded into three-ply strips such that said bale strapping band is a six-ply composite.

8. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 1, wherein said paper strips comprise a single paper strip folded around a non-folded internal support strip such that said bale strapping band is a three-ply composite.

9. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 8, wherein said internal support strip comprises a corrugated paper strip.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 3, wherein said water-soluble external adhesive is absorbed into said first and second external surfaces.

12. (currently amended) A bale strapping band for banding bales of wood pulp comprising:

~~one or more~~ mutually aligned and bonded paper strips, at least one of said paper strips having multiple longitudinal plies formed by folding said paper strip, wherein said band comprises ~~including~~ a first external ply, an opposing second external ply, and at least one internal ply disposed between the first and second external plies, said plies being substantially co-extensive longitudinally and laterally; and

an external adhesive layer disposed on the outer surface of at least one of said external plies such that the ends of said bale strapping band may be fixedly adhered to each other ~~itself~~ by reactivating said external adhesive layer.

13. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, further comprising one or more internal adhesive layers that adheredly bind the at least one internal ply with the first and second external plies.

14. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said external adhesive layer comprises a water-soluble adhesive material.

15. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said external adhesive layer comprises a heat-activated adhesive material.

16. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said one or more paper strips comprise repulpable material.

17. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said one or more paper strips comprises a pair of paper strips each longitudinally folded into two plies such that said bale strapping band is a four-ply composite.

18. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said one or more paper strips comprises a pair of paper strips each longitudinally folded into three-ply strips such that said bale strapping band is a six-ply composite.

19. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 12, wherein said one or more paper strips comprises a single paper strip folded around a non-folded internal support strip such that said bale strapping band is a three-ply composite.

20. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 19, wherein said internal support strip comprises a corrugated paper strip.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The bale strapping band of claim 14, wherein said water-soluble external adhesive material is absorbed into said outer surface.

Claims 23 - 29. (canceled)

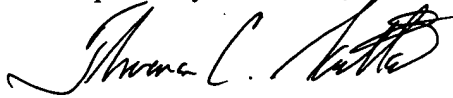
30. (new) The bale strapping band of claim 6, wherein said paper strips are longitudinally folded approximately in half.

31. (new) The bale strapping band of claim 7, wherein said paper strips are longitudinally folded approximately in thirds.

32. (new) The bale strapping band of claim 17, wherein said paper strips are longitudinally folded approximately in half.

33. (new) The bale strapping band of claim 18, wherein said paper strips are longitudinally folded approximately in thirds.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Saitta", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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